

Order in Council placing Wheat, Wheat Flour, and Semolina on the Free List.

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P.C. 1062.

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA.

MONDAY, the 16th day of April, 1917.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

Whereas the Minister of Finance reports that certain conditions arising out of the war seriously affect prices obtainable in Canada for wheat, especially of the lower grades;

And whereas in normal times there exists a good commercial export demand for milling purposes from Great Britain and the Continent for wheat of all grades;

And whereas this demand has for some time past almost entirely ceased on account of shortage of ocean shipping (due to submarine warfare), practically all available tonnage being required to transport grain of the higher grades and flour made therefrom, purchased in Canada and the United States by the British and allied Governments for their respective needs;

And whereas in consequence of this condition much Canadian wheat is being exported to the United States market for sale there, notwithstanding the customs duty payable thereon under the provisions of the United States tariff;

And whereas from inquiries recently made from the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada and other authentic sources the Minister of Finance is satisfied that the prices now prevailing in Canada for wheat, particularly of the lower grades, are, owing to the cause above mentioned, much lower than the prices obtaining therefor in the United States; in fact there are strong grounds for the belief that advantage is being taken of the situation to maintain prices of the said grades at figures lower than are warranted by general market conditions, and from information at hand it appears that there still remains a large amount of last year's Canadian crop unmarketed;

And whereas it is desirable at a time when a special appeal is being made for increased agricultural production to supply grain and foodstuffs to Great Britain and her Allies, which now include the United States of America, that the Canadian farmer should feel that he will obtain the best market prices obtainable for the product of his industry;

And whereas the Minister of Finance is of opinion that it is in the circumstances advisable that such action should be taken which will give to Canadian wheat free access to the markets of the United States in lieu of the commercial markets in Great Britain and on the European Continent formerly available under the conditions then existing, and, with this object in view, he directs the attention of His Excellency to certain provisions of the Customs Tariff of the United States. By item 644 thereof wheat, wheat flour, semolina, and other wheat products, shall be entered free of duty from countries which do not impose a duty on wheat or wheat flour or semolina imported from the United States; otherwise the duty upon wheat is fixed at ten cents

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per bushel, and upon wheat flour at forty-five cents per barrel, and upon semolina and other products of wheat ten per centum ad valorem;

And whereas if Canada should place wheat, wheat flour, and semolina upon the free list our wheat and wheat products would gain free entry to the markets of the United States;

And whereas it is desirable in the national interest that, for the reasons stated above, free access should be obtained to the markets of the United States for Canada's wheat;

Therefore His Excellency the Governor General in Council, under the authority of the War Measures Act, 1914, section 6, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that wheat, wheat flour, and semolina be transferred to the list of goods which may be imported into Canada free of duty of customs.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,

Clerk of the Privy Council.